

From: Fred McMullen
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 4:15am
Subject: Microsoft vs the Citizens of American

It appalls me to even be writing this letter. But I feel that it is a necessity, due to the mockery that Microsoft is making of the American Justice System. After being found guilty of being a monopoly, the DOJ has decided to let Microsoft off with no more than a slap on the wrist. The present judgement has no teeth. And Microsoft continues to buy opinions. Even recently, I received a phone call from a Microsoft representative on a champaign to flood this email box with pro Microsoft opinions.

I am an engineer and have been working in the computers industry for more than ten years. I started just before Microsoft began to be a player in this industry and I admit that Microsoft has played a significant role in creating the industry that I am in. The problem is that it is now trying to control this industry. It is killing off competition and stifling innovation. Microsoft claims to innovate, but I have seen Nothing new that Microsoft has created that isn't a Microsoft spin of someone else's idea. One by one I have watched company that have innovated and create fresh new product die off due to Microsoft's anti-competitive practices. They have copied and undersold, made applications required by calling them part of the operating system and not letting them be uninstalled.

To me is just about a ridiculous to have such a meaningless judge against Microsoft as it would be leave Osama Bin Laden alive, in power with his terrorist cells and the Taliban intact and tell him that he did a bad thing bombing America and we aren't ever going to give him a Visa now. Microsoft has continue to demonstrate it's contempt and disregard for the fair competition in the industry by continuing to Kill Netscape Plug-ins, require Passport for upgrades and even more tightly tie the Desktop to his back-end Server so that you almost have no choice but to choose a total Microsoft solution. Now that the back-end server market has secured its march on to monopoly, the Database market is next. The next version of the server will require Microsoft Database, and like the Browser wars, if you're going to have to buy Microsoft's Database with their server, then it will be a hard justification to buy other 3rd party database servers, especially since they won't run as well since they are given inferior API calls by Microsoft.

I am a believer in the free market enterprise and believe that Microsoft is entitled to the all money that they have made. After all I believe that for Microsoft, this is more about power and control than money. I believe that the most fair way to guarantee increased competition and new innovation is to break Microsoft into two separate companies. Let Microsoft sell off half the company and keep the money from the sale. But make the two companies split between the Desktop

Operating System and the Server Operating System Markets. All Desktop only applications go with the Desktop company and all Software requiring a server go with the Servers Company. Neither company can have a interest in the other company in any way and neither company can re-enter the other platform operating system market for ten years. API calls can be sold, but all API must be open at the same price to any company that wants to buy them. Since the two companies no longer have an vertical monopoly by having both the server and desktop markets, they will be encouraged to build relationships with other companies in order to survive.

Also define for the new Microsoft Desktop company, that an operation system is only the basic software that produces a user interface to hardware devices. Only applications that are basic desktop utilities can be bundled with the operating system as non removable software. Applications such as email clients, servers or clients, web browsers, news readers and not required for a Desktop Operating system to function and should be a users choice. All existing Microsoft Desktop OS should be version frozen and the next released version of the Desktop OS should allow all the Applications to be uninstalled. They can be sold seperately or bundled free, but they must be uninstallable so that the applications will not interfere with a competitors application if a user chooses to install it. Most all other Desktop operating systems allow this outside of Microsoft. There is NO engineering or software reason that these applications are required outside that fact that Microsoft designed them to be un-installable. Due to security concerns and the fact that I do not need to use certain pieces of Microsoft's Software, I have to hack the Microsoft Operating system to delete certain files that Microsoft claim's are required. They are not user un-installable, but after fooling the operating system long enough to delete them, I have eliminated security vulnerabilities, and Windows still runs fine, which proves that they are not really required.

If Microsoft really does know how to innovate and are as creative as they claim, then with it's talents and assets split then it should have no problem continuing to produce orginal software. But with open APIs and an interest in broading the market since their is not longer a finanical advantage in vertical monopoly, both new companies will be encouraged working with other desktop operating systems and other Server back-ends.

Give us in America a choice. DR Dos is Dead, Vines is dead, Netscape is almost dead and has filed their own lawsuit. Let Novell, Macintosh, Lindows, Roxio and other survive. Let them compete on an equal playing field.